

SOCIAL SECURITY

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(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the same people who told us again and again and again just 2 years ago that Congress could not cut taxes and balance the budget were wrong. Congress cut taxes, and the budget is actually now in surplus.

Well, the same people now are telling us that we cannot cut taxes and strengthen Social Security at the same time. Well, of course we can.

The same people who are defending the President's budget, which loots the Social Security trust fund to the tune of \$30 billion on new Washington-based social programs and double counts \$2.4 trillion in Social Security, are criticizing the Republican plan to strengthen Social Security, cut taxes and pay down the debt.

Well, the naysayers are wrong. The Republican plan will accomplish three important goals. It will strengthen Social Security, it will refund middle-class taxpayers some of the government overcharge, and it will start to chip away at the national debt, which means lower interest rates and good economic times for people trying to make ends meet.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, if this Nation sincerely believes that education is the foundation of our democracy, then it is time to act like it. In high-growth areas like the Evergreen School District in Clark County, Washington, the growth rate is too high for the local district to keep up. Evergreen is the fastest growing school district in our State, with a growth rate of 4.5 percent a year; and by 2004 their student enrollment is projected to increase by 26,000 students.

To respond to the number of students enrolling, Evergreen has put up 320 portable classrooms where 20 percent of our school district students are educated. This is not an effective environment in which to teach or to learn. That is why I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the School Construction Act of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) which will create new tax credits to leverage \$7.2 billion in school construction bonds. Under this bill, the bonds would be allocated according to enrollment growth over the next 10 years.

It is a good bill for our students, it is a good bill for our communities, and it is a good bill for our democracy. I urge my colleagues to support it.

RICH, MIDDLE CLASS OR POOR—
REPUBLICANS STAND FOR TAX
CUTS FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the Republican party stands for saving Social Security; and, yes, we stand for tax cuts, too. We stand for across-the-board tax cuts for all Americans. We stand for the elimination of capital gains taxes because capital investment is the engine of job growth, the key to economic opportunity for all Americans, whether rich or poor.

We stand for the expansion of IRA accounts. We stand for elimination of estate taxes because we think the government should not have two and three whacks at the fruits of a lifetime of work and because we think the government has already done enough to kill the family farm and to kill small businesses.

We stand for elimination of the marriage tax penalties. Right now, a married couple pays higher taxes if they are married than if they are not, and that is just plain wrong.

So let us work together to reduce the tax burden on all Americans whether rich, middle class or poor.

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL RECON-
STRUCTION AND MODERNIZA-
TION ACT

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the conditions of elementary and secondary schools in New York City. I wish to bring to light to my colleagues the dire conditions faced by students in New York and across our country.

Many of my colleagues may ask why the Federal Government needs to become involved in school renovation and construction issues which are historically local concerns. The simple answer to my colleagues is because the problem has grown so large that localities or States alone cannot handle it. They simply cannot handle it.

A recent survey by the Division of School Facilities in New York City concluded that in my district alone 19 new schools are needed to alleviate the overcrowding in my districts. Currently, three of the five community school districts in my district, my congressional district, are operating over capacity. The fact is, we are 9,789 seats short, 9,789 seats short. I ask my colleagues to think about that: almost 10,000 students for which the schools simply do not have any room.

Mr. Speaker, that is not the worst problem. Population growth is expected to increase over the next 10 years, leaving us 44,822 seats short.

This is why I support and Congress must pass the Democratic School Reconstruction and Modernization Act.

SAVE OUR STEEL INDUSTRY

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, sometimes an industry suffers from foreign competition because a new tool is invented or product quality goes up without a price increase or their government reduces regulation and taxes. But this is not the reason that the U.S. steel industry is suffering. Since 1980 it has modernized, it has streamlined, and it is 240 percent more efficient.

The International Trade Commission announced that foreign companies have indeed dumped hot rolled steel at prices below their own market. That announcement and the suspension agreement with Russia might provide some relief, but a key fact is often missing from the discussion. Some of these same countries have simply switched their dumping to other categories of steel. Russia has played that game since 1997.

The coming weeks and months are very critical to saving these United States jobs. This Congress must act. It must act quickly in order to save American jobs and our steel industry here in the United States of America.

PROVIDING 21ST CENTURY LEARN-
ING INSTITUTIONS FOR OUR
CHILDREN

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about school modernization. There is absolutely no doubt that our schools are in a state of despair. I have traveled New Mexico and talked to students and teachers in the schools and seen the problems firsthand, from buildings being shut down because of health and safety violations, temporary classrooms put on the campus for 1 year and used for 10 years, and the list could go on and on.

Mr. Speaker, one in three New Mexico schools need repair and need to be refurbished. The cost is staggering: \$2 billion. No one entity can do it.

So what we need, Mr. Speaker, is a partnership of the States, local school boards, the Federal Government, to make sure that we build 21st century learning institutions for our children.

HYPOCRISY OF TRASH

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I read with interest an article in yesterday's Washington Post which some Members of this Congress are upset and demanding legislation to stop other States from shipping garbage into their